

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MORVILLE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 11TH JULY 2022 AT MORVILLE VILLAGE HALL AT 7:30PM

Present: Councillors: Cllr G Brown, Cllr R-L Brown, Cllr C Bullock, Cllr J Davey, Cllr D Gibson, Cllr L Moxon-Jones, Cllr S McDermott (Chairman), Cllr A Pitchers, Cllr G Wilkes, Cllr P Yuille,
Unitary Councillor: Shropshire Cllr R Tindall

In Attendance: Officer: C Maclean (Locum Clerk)
Members of the Public: 1

22.32 WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Councillors and the member of the public to the meeting.

22.33 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Cllr J Cantrill.

22.34 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

None.

22.35 PUBLIC SESSION

No points raised.

22.36 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETINGS

- (i) To receive and agree the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 23rd May 2022**
Proposed by Cllr A Pitchers, seconded by Cllr G Brown and it was resolved the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 23rd May 2022 be adopted and that the Chairman sign these as a true record.

- (ii) To receive and agree the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 23rd May 2022**
Cllrs J Davey and P Yuille raised an objection to the Minutes as presented to the meeting. The Councillors advised that the comments listed under item 22.11(iii) did not fully reflect the concerns expressed at the meeting over the application to extinguish footpath 17/2 and in their opinion, it had been resolved that the Parish Council register their objections to Shropshire Council.

The Locum Clerk advised Councillors that he would withdraw these Minutes from the meeting to allow them to be revised and amended as appropriate. Revised Minutes would be presented to a future meeting.

- (iii) To receive and agree the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 27th June 2022**

Cllr D Gibson expressed concern that his comment over the outstanding invoice for the replaced defibrillator pads at Monkhopton had not been recorded in the Minutes.

The Locum Clerk advised Councillors that he would withdraw these Minutes from the meeting to allow them to be revised and amended as appropriate. Revised Minutes would be presented to a future meeting.

22.37 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

None raised.

22.38 SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

- (i) Shropshire Cllr R Tindall updated Councillors on recent activities impacting the parish. Full report attached as Appendix 1.
- (ii) **Shropshire Council's Local Plan:** currently at Stage I of the Examination in Public. Stage 2 forecast to commence in the Autumn but recent announcement to hold the examination via Microsoft Teams due to a Covid-19 outbreak may delay timings.
- (iii) **Change in Planning Committee Membership:** the Lib Dem win in Highley has resulted in a change in the political balance of Shropshire Council resulting in Cllr R Tindall standing down from the Southern Planning Committee.
- (iv) **B4368 Traffic Calming:** efforts continue to install speed limits at Weston.
Cllr P Yuille noted the letter received from the Vice Chair at Munslow Parish Council and the attempts through joint highways meetings to secure traffic calming measures on the B4368 through affected parishes. Cllr P Yuille offered to represent the Parish Council at future meetings and Cllr L Moxon-Jones offered to also represent the Parish Council.
It was agreed that Cllrs P Yuille and L Moxon-Jones represent the Parish Council and report back to Council on outcome of future meetings.
- (v) **Proposed Poultry Enterprise at Footbridge Farm:** the decision to refuse the application is being appealed. Efforts are being undertaken to have the appeal dealt with at a public hearing rather than written representations. Concern remains that if the appeal is allowed, there will be an impact on parish residents.
Cllr G Brown raised concerns over possible future actions by the applicant in the event the application was unsuccessful. Councillors shared concerns but noted that the Parish Council could not take any action at the current time.
- (vi) **Application for Lawful Development Certificate at Monkhopton House:** Councillors shared views on the application for lawful development certificate in respect of the use of offices, workshops and storage units, Whilst it was recognised that operations could be at unsociable hours, restrictions on their use needed to be carefully assessed in light of the units being used for equipment required at all hours. Councillors discussed the merits of establishing normal operating hours for the units with allowance for emergency access situations.
Proposed by Cllr P Yuille, seconded by Cllr D Gibson, it was resolved with two members abstaining that Cllr R Tindall respond to Shropshire Council seeking operating hours for the units.
- (vii) **Future Attendance:** Cllr R Tindall advised Councillors of upcoming potential restrictions for him to physically attend meetings. He advised that, if possible, it would be easier for him to attend remotely which would be considered.

22.39 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- (i) Cllr S McDermott updated Councillors on recent activities he sees impacting the parish. Full report attached as Appendix 2.

- (ii) **Shropshire Council Draft Local Plan:** Councillors noted the Stage 1 developments of the Draft Local Plan and the hearings being held in Shrewsbury. As previously agreed, the Parish Council would not take part until Stage 2. He also noted that the meetings were currently being held via Microsoft Teams due to a Covid-19 outbreak.
- (iii) **Tasley Neighbourhood Plan:** Cllr S McDermott advised Councillors that Tasley Parish Council had decided to commence work on the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan for their parish. Following discussion with some Tasley Councillors, it was suggested that Morville Parish Council could contribute to the Plan.

Councillors discussed the merits of the Parish Council creating its own Neighbourhood Plan. Some concerns were raised over the merits of undertaking such an exercise, especially when it was understood that Morville's status would change to open countryside.

Cllr S McDermott advised Councillors that he was happy to represent the Parish Council at the discussions with Tasley Parish Councillors. Consideration was given to Cllr A Pitchers joining Cllr S McDermott in the discussions, but due to commitments, Cllr A Pitchers deferred his presence for the time being.
- (iv) **HGVs on lane from Weston to Brockton:** Cllr L Moxon-Jones noted that signage had not yet been installed to prevent HGVs using the lane. It was also noted that there were no speed restrictions in place. Cllr L Moxon-Jones enquired of Cllr R Tindall whether it was possible to obtain an implementation timeline from Shropshire Council. Cllr R Tindall suggested contacting Mr Richard Marshall and Mr Dean Carroll.

At 8:15pm, Shropshire Cllr R Tindall gave his apologies and left the meeting. Councillors thanked him for his updates. The member of the public also left the meeting.

22.40 CLERK'S REPORT

- (i) **Good Councillor Guides:** The Locum Clerk referred Councillors to the copies of The Good Councillor's Guide and The Good Councillor's Guide To Finance And Transparency that had been provided.
- (ii) **Bridgnorth & Shifnal Area Committee:** Councillors noted that a meeting of this committee was running concurrently with the Parish Council meeting and apologies had been sent for absence. Representations had also been sent to the Secretary to advise that the Parish Council wished to see a suspension of the Admin Fee paid by town and parish councils.
- (iii) **Morville Parish Councillors on Shropshire Council Website:** the Locum Clerk advised Councillors that details had been updated.
- (iv) **Councillor Emails:** the Locum Clerk advised Councillors that he would seek to progress this setup in coming days.
- (v) **Apley Estates:** Councillors noted that representatives of Apley Estates would be attending the next Council meeting to deliver a presentation.
- (vi) **Financial Accounts 2021/2022:** the Locum Clerk advised Councillors that the page in the accounts reflecting Payments Exceeding £100 had been amended. The correct version was placed on the Council website.
- (vii) **Council Resolutions and Minutes:** the Locum Clerk noted the level of amendments to the Minutes and advised that in future he would ensure he is clear on resolutions presented and acted upon.

22.41 COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Councillors noted there had been no further progress in filling the vacant seat for Morville. The position continues to be advertised.

22.42 SHROPSHIRE'S DRAFT ECONOMIC GROWTH STRATEGY 2022-2027

Councillors noted the publication of the Draft Economic Growth Strategy consultation which focuses on (i) supporting local businesses; (ii) strategic locations; and (iii) employment and skills. Cllr A Pitchers advised Councillors that he had reviewed the consultation and considered that it merits a response from the Parish Council. It was agreed that Cllr A Pitchers would pull together a draft response and share with Councillors for their consideration and input.

22.43 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Councillors noted and considered application 22/02960/FUL relating to the proposed erection of a single storey side and rear extensions and refurbishment of existing dwelling at Mulberry House, 77 The Smithies, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV16 4TE. Councillors noted that the current property was in very poor state.

Councillors expressed no specific comment in response to the application.

22.44 ENVIRONMENTAL MAINTENANCE

- (i) **Current Arrangements:** Councillors considered the arrangements that had been in place and noted that no recent contact had been received from the lengthsmen. Councillors agreed that the current arrangements should end and the Locum Clerk was instructed to write to the lengthsmen advising that the current arrangements and contract was being terminated.

Proposed by Cllr P Yuille, seconded by Cllr G Brown and it was resolved that the Locum Clerk advise Mr Oliver that the current arrangements were regarded as terminated.

- (ii) **Requirements for the Parish to Secure Services of a Lengthsman/Environmental Maintenance Officer:** Councillors considered the merits of employing a permanent lengthsmen or to allocate jobs to preferred contractors as and when they were identified and suitable. Cllr J Davey suggested it may be worth the Council's time to employ individual contractors for the remainder of the current year to identify what duties and tasks required to be performed. Councillors considered the duties required within environmental maintenance and it was agreed that specific requirements should be established and a job specification created.

Proposed by Cllr J Davey, seconded by Cllr P Yuille and it was resolved unanimously that environmental maintenance tasks be undertaken by preferred contractors for the remainder of the current year.

- (iii) **Environmental Maintenance Grant:** The Locum Clerk advised Councillors that he had secured the name of a colleague at Shropshire Council and would be contacting her to understand the current grant requirements and documentation. The Locum Clerk also believed that the current contractual arrangements must be more recent than the agreement provided to Councillors. Cllr P Yuille advised her understanding that assurance had been provided from Shropshire Council to Cllr S McDermott that the Parish Council would not miss out.

22.45 NEIGHBOURHOOD FUND

- (i) **Funds Available For Spend:** the Locum Clerk advised Councillors that a review of the previous years' activities would be required to establish the funds that were available against what has been spent. Plans were to undertake this review in the near future.
- (ii) **Spend Items:** Councillors considered the opportunities for spend within the parish. Options considered include (i) improved footpaths; (ii) provision of a car park facility; and (iii) improving the road surface to the playing field. Further consideration would be given to other options.

22.46 FINANCIAL REPORT

- (i) **Report on Current Finances:** the Locum Clerk advised Councillors that attempts were being made to enable online access to the bank accounts as well as implement the change of signatories. The Locum Clerk advised Councillors that with online access available, details of the accounts and balances would be available at all times.
- (ii) **Financial Statement:** Councillors reviewed the proposed Financial Statement to be displayed on the website.

Proposed by Cllr S McDermott, seconded by Cllr J Davey and it was resolved that the Financial Statement be displayed on the Council 's website.

- (iii) **Approval and Authorisation of Payments for Council Services:** the Locum Clerk advised Councillors that he had not been able to compile these for the meeting but they would be provided following the meeting and when the account was able to make online payments.
- (iv) **Remuneration of the Locum Clerk:** Councillors considered the paper setting out proposals to remunerate the Clerk. Councillors noted the proposal to forego the travel expenses and pay the amount of £15.16 per hour.

Proposed by Cllr G Brown, seconded by Cllr G Wilkes and it was resolved that the Locum Clerk be remunerated at the hourly rate of £15.16.

Councillors noted that on average, five hours per week, should be allocated to performing Clerk duties. It was noted that this may initially increase as outstanding tasks were addressed.

It was agreed that where in excess of five hours are required to undertake these duties, agreement can be made between the Locum Clerk and the Chairman on the excess.

22.47 INFORMATION ITEMS

No items were raised.

22.48 PARISH MATTERS

No items were raised.travel

22.49 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- (i) Cllr J Davey enquired of fellow Councillors whether it would be more suitable to move the start time of future meetings to 7:00pm.

Proposed by Cllr J Davey, seconded by Cllr L Moxon-Jones and it was resolved that the next meeting in September would commence at 7:00pm.

- (ii) Update on Environmental Maintenance Grant

- (iii) Locum Clerk to be advised of any items to be added.

22.50 NEXT MEETING

- (i) 12th September 2022 at 7:00pm.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:23pm.

Appendix 1: Shropshire Councillor's Report for the Meeting being held on Monday the 10th July 2022.

Agenda Item 22/38

I have a few items to report as follows:

1. Stage I of the Examination in Public of Shropshire Council's Local Plan started on Tuesday the 5th July at the Shrewsbury Football Stadium. Stage I is procedural and deals with legal and policy matters. Stage II will deal with specific site allocations such as the proposals to build 1,050 houses between Bridgnorth and Morville. The date that Stage II commences has not yet been announced but it is anticipated to be some time in the autumn.

I have just been informed that several participants last week have tested positive for Covid, so the Inspectors have decided to continue the Examination via Teams.

2. Following the Lib Dem win in the By-Election in Highley there is now a sufficient change in the political balance of the Council to pass the Independent's seat on the Southern Planning Committee to the Lib Dems. This means that I will no longer be on the Committee- for the first time since Shropshire Council became a Unitary Authority in 2009. I accept the situation gracefully and I do not regret voting against the proposal to include the Taylor Wimpey proposal to build 1,050 houses near Tasley.
3. There has been some progress in introducing traffic calming measures through Weston. Unfortunately, but understandably, the traffic from the A49 is currently being diverted along the B4368 which reinforces the need for a speed limit.
4. The decision to refuse the planning application to construct a poultry enterprise at Footbridge Farm has been appealed by the applicant. The Planning Inspectorate has decided to hear the appeal by way of written representations. However, Members of the Southern Planning Committee believe that the appeal would be better dealt with at a public hearing and have asked Planning Officers to write to the Planning Inspectorate accordingly. Whilst the farm is not in Morville Parish it is close to its boundary and the consequences, if the appeal is allowed, may affect some residents of Morville Parish.

5. As the local member, I have been sent notification of an application for a Lawful Development Certificate at Monkhopton House in respect of the use of offices, workshops and storage units, which have been used without planning permission for at least the preceding ten years. I have until the 13th July to respond but I believe I have no grounds to object to the issue of a Lawful Development Certificate.
6. As always, if there are any matters with which I can help, please let me know.

Robert Tindall
10th July 2022

Appendix 2: Chairman's Report for July 11th 2022

Stage 1 of the Public Hearings on Shropshire Council's Draft Local Plan began, in Shrewsbury, on July 5th. This first stage is primarily concerned with legal compliance, and we have previously agreed that Morville PC will not take part until Stage 2, which is more concerned with specific sites. Nevertheless, our views have been made clear to the Inspectors as Reg19 submissions, and I have made sure that several other participants will be expressing our concerns during these Stage 1 verbal hearings. The second week of these hearings will now be held online, via Microsoft Teams, due to an outbreak of Covid-19.

Tasley PC has decided to commence work on the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan for their parish. I have had an informal meeting with some Tasley parish councillors, who have suggested that Morville PC could contribute to this process, and they will contact me to let me know when they start work. I would be happy to represent the PC in this role.

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Chairman

12th September 2022